

USMC FORCE EMPLOYMENT

Mode: Seminar/Directed Study

Lesson No. 4-02-S

1. Introduction. This lesson is composed of a 3-hour seminar discussion. Seminars meet in Collins Hall and are paired in order to have a Marine in each group. In each seminar pairing, Marine students lead a discussion on the organization of Marine Air-Ground Task Forces (MAGTFs) and how a theater CINC can employ them in response to regional contingencies. During the seminar, students examine how Marines are organized for combat and how they can be employed in support of a unified CINC. Students will also address the tenets of Operational Maneuver from the Sea (OMFTS) and joint force employment options.

2. Learning Objectives. To enable students to:

a. Comprehend the unique service approach to doctrine and organization of Marine Air-Ground Task Forces (MAGTFs).

b. Analyze current and evolving USMC task organization and joint employment concepts.

c. Incorporate employment options for MAGTFs in subsequent War College exercises.

d. Understand the unique force capabilities and limitations of Marine Component Commands.

e. Know the Combatant Commander's employment options for Marine forces.

f. Understand, in general, the Combatant Commander's theater strategies for use of Marine Components in theater campaign plans and theater engagement plans.

3. Student Requirements.

a. Tasks. During the combined seminar session, each Marine student will present illustrations of MAGTF employment in various contingencies. Each Marine student will also lead a discussion to explore ways in which a Joint Force Commander (JFC) can use amphibious maneuver to achieve synergy in his operational campaign. All students should read the required readings and review the points to consider.

b. Required Readings.

(1) Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, United States Marine Corps Concepts and Issues 2001, Appendix A, "How the Marines are Organized." (Course 4 Selected Readings, AY02, Implementing National Military Strategy)

(2) Krulak, Charles C. "Operational Maneuver from the Sea," Joint Force Quarterly, Spring 1999. (Course 4 Selected Readings, AY02, Implementing National Military Strategy)

(3) Corbett, Art. "Employment of Marine Forces." (Course 4 Selected Readings, AY02, Implementing National Military Strategy)

(4) Review Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Joint Pub 0-2, Unified Action Armed Forces (UNAAF), Chapter IV, para 1 C., "Organizing Joint Forces," pp. IV-2 thru IV-5. (Student Issue)

c. Suggested Readings.

(1) Strategy 21, [http://www.usmc.mil/templateml.nsf/25241abbb036b230852569c4004eff0e/\\$FILE/strategy.pdf](http://www.usmc.mil/templateml.nsf/25241abbb036b230852569c4004eff0e/$FILE/strategy.pdf) (access through www.usmc.mil, then selecting "Publications" and "Marine Corps Strategy")

(2) Fehrenbach, T. R. This Kind of War, New York: MacMillan, 1963, Chapter 12, "Fire Brigade," pp. 119-134, and Chapter 25, "Proud Legions," pp. 289-303. (Library Reserve Shelf)

4. Points to Consider.

a. What are the strategic advantages/disadvantages of a sea-borne/sea-based force?

b. To what extent should the U.S. retain the capability to conduct amphibious operations? What will be the usefulness, if any, of amphibious forces in future warfare?

c. What are the possible applications of such a force in joint warfare? During operations other than war?

d. How can a JFC employ amphibious forces to exploit enemy vulnerabilities?

e. Considering that the Air Combat Element (ACE) is an internal element organized within the MAGTF, how should Marine aviation assets be employed in joint operations?

f. What is the relationship between Operational Maneuver from the Sea (OMFTS) and Joint Vision 2020?

5. Relationship to Professional Joint Education (PJE) Learning Areas.

- a. PJE LA 2.b. Points to Consider, Readings
- b. PJE LA 2.e. Points to Consider, Objectives, Readings
- c. PJE LA 3.a. Objectives, Readings
- d. PJE LA 3.b. Points to Consider, Readings
- e. PJE LA 3.d. Readings, Points to Consider
- f. PJE LA 4.a. Points to Consider, Objectives
- g. PJE LA 4.b. Objectives, Points to Consider, Readings
- h. PJE LA 4.c. Points to Consider, Objectives, Readings
- i. PJE LA 5.c. Readings, Objectives, Points to Consider

6. Relationship to USAWC Institutional Learning Objectives (ILOs), Enduring and Special Themes.

- a. ILOs: 6 and 7
- b. Enduring Themes: Strategic Vision, Jointness
- c. Special Themes: International Security/Warfare in the 21st Century